

their house the object stood still for a little while and the sharp light brightened everything around them. Later the light moved towards Turffontein and disappeared.

"Another inhabitant of Maraisburg, Mr. L. Merensky, saw the object. He was sitting listening to the radio when his little son who was playing outside called him. Above his house hovered a strange, cigar-shaped object with a bright light. The whole vicinity of his house was bathed in a half-blue glow. Shortly afterwards the object disappeared over Turffontein.

"Inquiries this morning proved fruitless. The police of Maraisburg knew nothing of a flying saucer; nor the observatory, but Mr. Groenewald stuck to his story; the rotating thing with the bright light remains a puzzle and is definitely not a natural phenomenon. Later he heard the drone of an aircraft. He is however certain that it could not have been an aircraft. An aircraft has a flickering light and moves in one direction, whereas the object made quick turns in the vicinity. Its light sometimes disappeared and then shone brightly again in another place. . ."

Credit: **Kenneth Bayman**, who provided the translation from the Afrikaans.

UFOs "circling the moon"?

This incident was recorded in the Port Elizabeth *Evening Post* of December 8, 1967:

"Three Claremont, Cape, men last night claimed to have sighted a pair of flying saucers circling the moon.

"The men, Mr. Johan Warnstom, Mr. Gert Mulme, and Mr. Billy Neilson, were in a house in Protea Road, Claremont, when they noticed two small circular objects, each of which seemed to have a light on one side. The objects were circling the moon at a high speed.

"They were first sighted at 11.05 p.m. and remained plainly in sight for several minutes before being blanketed by cloud."

Credit: **Philipp J. Human**.

BOTSWANA

That cross-shaped UFO again?

The *Pretoria News* of January 11, 1968' reported the following incident from Gaborones, capital of Botswana (formerly Bechuanaland):

"An unidentified flying object 'shining like a star on a Christmas card' was seen by a Gaborones man here on Tuesday night (9th January), states a message from Gaborones.

"Mr. F. C. Edwards reported the UFO to the civil aviation authorities yesterday. He says: 'I was in the town with my children. The object came in from the north, shining like a star on a Christmas card. It formed a sort of bright cross. It seemed to hover over the airfield for a time with no noise. Then it went off in a south-easterly direction, quite slowly.

"After a while it began to rise very quickly, until it passed out of sight.'"

Credit: **Philipp J. Human**.

MOZAMBIQUE

Awesome UFO frightens fishermen

The Johannesburg *Star* of December 12, 1967, carried the following story from Lourenço Marques:

"The crew of a Lourenço Marques trawler is back in port with an awesome story of an unidentified flying object which 'turned night into day' out in the Mozambique Channel.

"The sixteen fishermen—mostly Portuguese and deeply religious—saw the UFO on two successive nights while they were trawling near the Bazaruto Islands, 140 miles south of Beira, in the *Nossa Senhora da Luz*.

"The object crossed the sky at great speed, apparently a few hundred yards from the trawler, from north to south on December 1 and in the opposite direction on December 2.

"Please do not write this story," said the skipper, Joao Custodio Quiterio. 'We are afraid of reprisals, as we have to go back to sea soon.'

"Loth as he was to talk about the experience, he said the UFO was sighted at about 7 p.m. on both nights. 'Do not ask me if it was a flying saucer, because it would be very difficult to explain,' he said. 'It looked like a huge ball of fire. During a few seconds the whole area and we ourselves were covered with an intense blue light and night became day.'"

Credit: **Philipp J. Human**.

INDIA

Huge object over Midnapore

The following account from Calcutta is taken from the *Evening News of India* for October 30, 1967:

"A bright object looking like the full moon was sighted over certain parts of Midnapore district on the night of October 28, according to the P.S.P.¹ leader, Prof. Samar Guha, M.P.

"Prof. Guha today said that he and some friends, proceeding from Contai to Kharagpur in a jeep about 11.30 p.m. on October 28, saw the object at a place near Belda moving fast at a comparatively lower altitude from west to east, leaving behind a luminous trail.

"Prof. Guha said that the object was seen for about a minute before it vanished."

Credit: **Jal N. D. Tata**, Bombay.

P.S.P. is the name of a local political party.

Are there Indians on Venus?

This interesting report was found in the Karachi (Pakistan) *Evening Star* of October 10, 1967:

"The planet Venus is inhabited by 1,000 people descended from Indus Valley emigrants who went there in a space ship 3,000 years before Christ, physicist Dr. Ruth Reyna said here.

"Dr. Reyna, who teaches physics at the East Punjab University of Chandigarh, told journalists that she hopes her theory would be confirmed by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, to whom she had submitted a research report.

"Some 3,000 years B.C., a group of people in the Indus Valley were warned by astrologers of an imminent catastrophe, she said. They got into a space craft and went to the cold face of Venus, which they heated up artificially.

"She estimated there were between 1,000 and 1,200 people in the 'Indian Colony' on Venus.

"Observers here recalled that some orthodox Hindus still believe that modern technology is all contained in Hinduism's sacred writings and that a former Hindu civilisation possessed aeroplanes and rockets."

Credit: **R. A. MacEwen** of Karachi.

BULGARIA

Flying "Orange" over Sofia

This incident was reported in *The Yorkshire Post* of December 18, 1967:

"Citizens of Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, were goggle-eyed recently. A gigantic UFO hovered over the city in the light of the setting sun.

"The incident, which occurred on Tuesday, November 21, is fully reported in the current bulletin of the Bulgarian Telegraph Agency. It calls the object a 'huge, shining body.'

"At first it looked like a sphere, bigger than the disc of the sun, but gradually took the form of a trapezium. The gleams it emitted were like those of an oxy-acetylene welding apparatus.'

"Fifteen minutes later, watched through a telescope with a magnifying power of 40 diameters, it 'looked like a balloon or parachute.' The top was a dark, flattened disc, with a bright, wide belt around it.

"The object gradually turned orange-coloured and moved slowly to the east, disappearing over the misty horizon. As it vanished the telescope was still at an angle of 25 to 30° above the horizontal.

"Next day the Sofia newspaper *Trud* published a photograph of the UFO and an interview with Mr. Dimiter Simetchiev, of the Hydrology and Meteorology Institute, who was on duty at the time. 'It moved against the wind,' he said.

"So far as I could judge, it was flying at a height of about 19 miles. It caused no disturbance to radio broadcasts.'"

YUGOSLAVIA

UFO starts forest fire?

This item came to us via *Dawn*, the Karachi newspaper (issue for November 28, 1967):

"A flame-spewing flying saucer started a forest fire near the Yugoslav-Albanian border, according to eye-witnesses' reports in the Belgrade *Evening News* yesterday.

"Inhabitants of the area around Mount Komovi in Montenegro said they saw the flying saucer come down so close to the earth that the flames it was giving off set fire to trees, causing a forest fire it took 24 hours to extinguish.

"Other reports of flying saucers came from all over Yugoslavia at the beginning of this week, the paper said."

Credit: **R. A. MacEwen** of Karachi.